

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 29, 2016

President Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As legislators, we see the value that service brings to our communities and our nation and we continue to be inspired by everyday examples of civic engagement. As we look to the future, we view providing every American with service opportunities as a necessary step toward fostering active citizenship for the next generation. We therefore ask that you further your commitment to national service by requesting robust funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) in your Fiscal Year 2017 budget request to Congress.

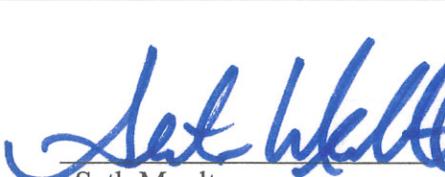
It is clear that the localized, community-driven solutions exemplified by the CNCS' many programs, including AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and AmeriCorps VISTA, present some of the most effective ways of solving our nation's most pressing challenges. Whether it's helping communities respond to disasters, inspiring our nation's children to succeed in school, or securing housing for low-income families, CNCS programs are positively impacting communities across the nation. Moreover, countless studies affirm the correlation between service and leadership. When we remove barriers to national service and give every American a chance to serve, we not only empower our communities, but also our nation's next generation of leaders to solve some of our most pressing challenges.

Moreover, the data demonstrates that supporting national service is a sound investment. A 2013 study conducted by the Center for Benefit-Cost Studies in Education at Columbia University found a return of \$2.47 for every dollar invested in AmeriCorps. This amount reflects productivity gains, social gains, and taxpayer gains, as well as money that might otherwise be spent on the criminal justice system and social safety net programs. It is also important to note that these efforts are broadly supported by the private sector as well. CNCS leverages an additional \$870 million in private donations each year to support these initiatives. With five applicants for every AmeriCorps position, it is clear that demand far outweighs the federal government's investment in these programs. We must continue to fund CNCS and expand our commitment to national service.

We believe that our nation faces complex challenges that require innovative, community-based solutions. Investing in CNCS is one of the most cost-effective ways our federal government can

make a difference in the lives of millions of Americans. We therefore ask that your FY17 budget request to Congress include robust funding for CNCS.

Sincerely,

  
Seth Moulton  
United States Representative

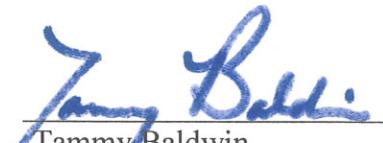
  
Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator

  
Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator

  
Doris Matsui  
United States Representative

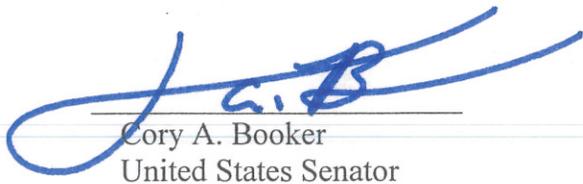
  
David E. Price  
United States Representative

  
Kelly Ayotte  
United States Senator

  
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator

  
Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator

  
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



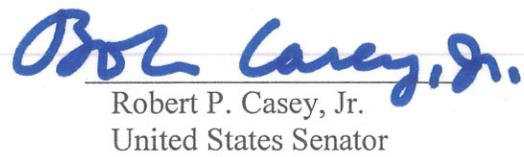
Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



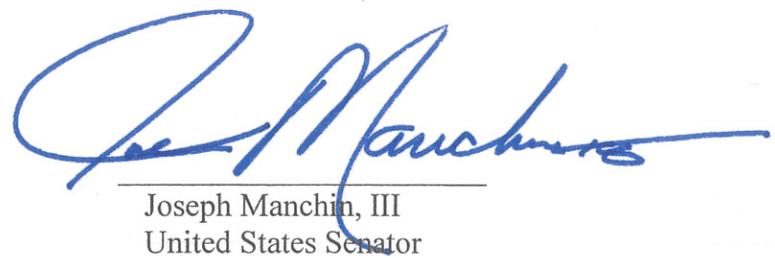
Al Franken  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



Joseph Manchin, III  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Gary Peters  
United States Senator



Bernie Sanders  
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



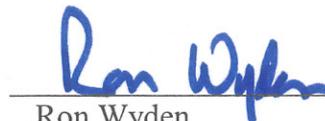
Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



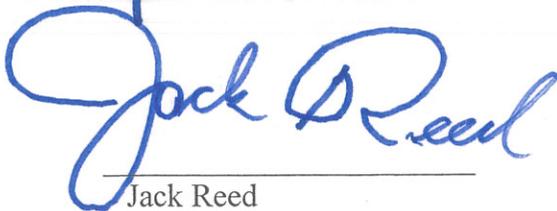
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Karen Bass  
United States Representative



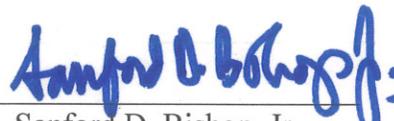
Joyce Beatty  
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Donald S. Beyer, Jr.  
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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
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Earl Blumenauer  
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Michael E. Capuano  
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Tony Cárdenas  
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Matt Cartwright  
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Katherine M. Clark  
United States Representative

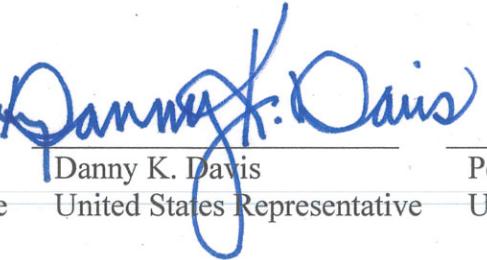


Yvette D. Clarke  
United States Representative



John Conyers, Jr.  
United States Representative

  
Joe Courtney  
United States Representative

  
Danny K. Davis  
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Peter A. DeFazio  
United States Representative

  
John K. Delaney  
United States Representative

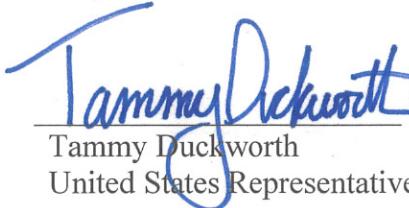
  
Rosa L. DeLauro  
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Suzan K. DelBene  
United States Representative

  
Lloyd Doggett  
United States Representative

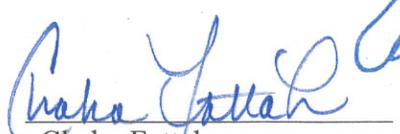
  
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Michael F. Doyle  
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Tammy Duckworth  
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Keith Ellison  
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Sam Farr  
United States Representative

  
Chaka Fattah  
United States Representative

  
Alcee L. Hastings  
United States Representative

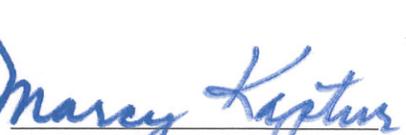
  
Brian Higgins  
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Michael M. Honda  
United States Representative



Eddie Bernice Johnson  
United States Representative



Marcy Kaptur  
United States Representative



William R. Keating  
United States Representative



Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
United States Representative



Daniel T. Kildee  
United States Representative



Derek Kilmer  
United States Representative



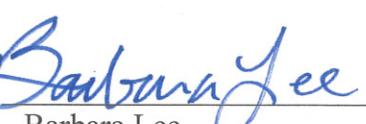
Ann McLane Kuster  
United States Representative



John B. Larson  
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Brenda L. Lawrence  
United States Representative



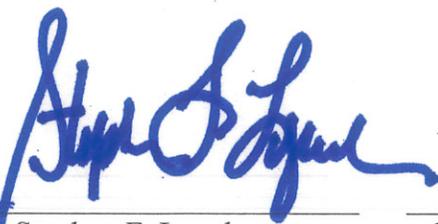
Barbara Lee  
United States Representative



David Loebsack  
United States Representative



Zoe Lofgren  
United States Representative

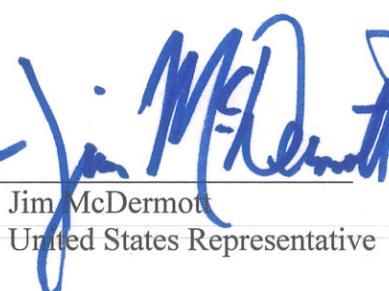


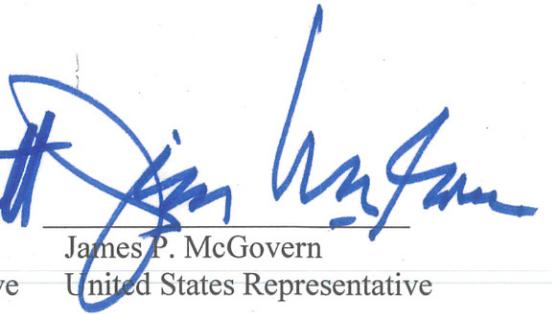
Stephen F. Lynch  
United States Representative



Carolyn B. Maloney  
United States Representative

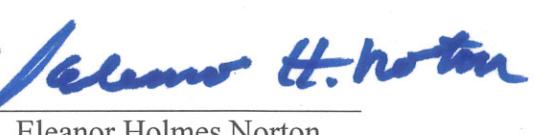
  
Betty McCollum  
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Jim McDermott  
United States Representative

  
James P. McGovern  
United States Representative

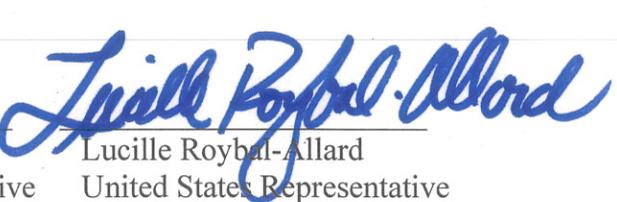
  
Gwen Moore  
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Richard E. Neal  
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
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Mark Pocan  
United States Representative

  
Jared Polis  
United States Representative

  
Lucille Roybal-Allard  
United States Representative

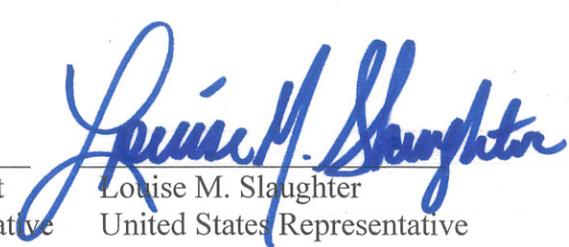
  
Tim Ryan  
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Loretta Sanchez  
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John P. Sarbanes  
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David Scott  
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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
United States Representative

  
Louise M. Slaughter  
United States Representative

*Niki Tsongas*

Niki Tsongas  
United States Representative

*Chris Van Hollen*

Chris Van Hollen  
United States Representative

*Frederica S. Wilson*

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United States Representative

Cc: The Honorable Shaun Donovan  
Director, Office of Management and Budget